the director's
innovation
recognition awards program

INTRODUCTION

To meet the challenges of California's tremendous diversity and continued growth, innovation and reinvention must occur. The Department consistently and continually seeks new ways to provide quality services to our customers. The Director's Innovations Recognition Program has been created to recognize, foster, and encourage this standard of thinking.

ELIGIBILITY/NOMINATION

Any Department program that has planned, developed, and implemented a fresh approach to solving a problem of significant concern, and, can demonstrate successful outcomes as of a result of the program's implementation is eligible to apply. Applications must demonstrate that innovation has significantly contributed toward the achievement of its stated goals. The Director may also nominate projects for recognition.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A Department panel, led by the Chief Deputy Director and department representatives will evaluate nominations and applications. Applicants should present quantitative and/or qualitative evidence demonstrating program goals that have been or are being met. The following criteria may be applied when judging applications:

- The degree to which the program/project is innovative or demonstrates creativity

- Significance, particularly the degree to which an important problem of public concern is successfully addressed

- Effectiveness demonstrated by evidence that substantial progress towards targeted goals has been made

- Success of planning and implementing the project

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To facilitate application review, please use the following topics as a guide in your submissions. The length of your response may vary, as long as the total nomination or application does not exceed three pages.

1) **Reasons or validation for the change**
   - Briefly describe what led to the project or effort taken. Describe the purposes, scope, and nature of your project or policy initiative, including the specific problem it addresses and objectives of the change.

   Include information about the stakeholders, departments, organizations, etc., involved in the planning and decision-making process.

2) **Your Program Innovation**
   - Describe what makes this project or policy initiative innovative? What has changed in your organizational structure or process and/or service delivery due to the innovation?

3) **Benefit of the Program**
   - Describe the overall benefit the program or effort has had or will have on your customers. How do you or plan to measure the success of your innovation? Please provide qualitative or quantitative measures. What results have you achieved to date?

4) **Potential Use of Your Innovation for other Programs**
   - If applicable, describe how your project or effort could be replicated in other programs. What conditions need to be present in order for the project or effort to be successful in other programs? What advice would you lend?

   To your knowledge, have any other programs established projects or implemented policies modeled specifically on this project or innovation?

5) **Outlook for the Future**
   - Describe the program's goals for the future.

Applications should not exceed three pages long, should be single-spaced with 12 point font. Forward applications to your respective District Director for approval, then submit to:

Janis DeVerter, Awards Coordinator
Public Affairs, Room 1200
1120 N Street, MS 49
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-653-8879
CALNET 8-453-8879

POSSIBLE TARGET THEMES

The Director's Innovation Recognition Program seeks to highlight examples of Department programs that may:

- Exhibit creativity through changes in work design or products

- Reshape organizational culture in ways that improve performance

- Implement significant policy innovation

- Exemplify multi-agency, intergovernmental or public/private collaboration

- Demonstrate effectiveness in performance-based management

Name of Nominated Project

District/Division/Program

Location if applicable

Contact/Applicant Name

Street Address

City   State   Zip

(   )
Phone Number

Email Address

Persons to be Recognized

name   position